

INTRODUCTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDING THAT FOREIGN-BORN CITIZENS OF 20 YEARS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States that will enable all citizens of this country to be eligible to hold the Office of President. No citizen should be denied the opportunity to seek the nation's highest office. The proposal that I am introducing will allow foreign-born individuals who have been citizens of this country for at least 20 years to be eligible for this office.

As you know, Article II of the Constitution of the United States provides that only natural-born citizens are entitled to hold the Office of President. I believe that this limitation contradicts the principles for which this country stands. This nation prides itself on its diversity of culture, experience, and opinion. This quality is achieved only by welcoming immigrants to this country, allowing them to become citizens, and enabling them to make full contributions to society.

For the most part, the United States treats its citizens, those natural-born and foreign-born, the same. However, when determining who is eligible for the Office of President, this country unfairly distinguishes between the two. Allowing the United States to be a better country because of the contributions that foreign-born citizens make, and then not allowing them to fully participate in all aspects of society, is un-American.

As you may also know, some of our country's foreign-born citizens are our country's greatest public servants. There are also 700 foreign-born citizens who have received the Medal of Honor. It is unjust to deny citizens the chance to become President of the United States as well. A 2002 Pentagon study reports that more than 30,000 foreign-born citizens are currently serving in the U.S. military.

I realize that constitutional amendments are rare and that those proposed should be subject to great scrutiny. I truly respect one of the documents on which our country was founded, the Constitution of the United States. Therefore, it is after great consideration and with the utmost gravity, that I introduce this proposal today. I am hopeful that my fellow colleagues in Congress will properly consider the proposed amendment and realize that every citizen of the United States should be entitled to dream of becoming President.

TRIBUTE TO HON. BOB STUMP

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, George Washington said, "It should be the

highest ambition of every American to extend his views beyond himself, and to bear in mind that his conduct will not only affect himself, his country, and his immediate posterity; but that its influence may be coextensive with the world."

Bob Stump, a beloved Arizonan and a champion of liberty, extended his gallant views beyond himself and furthered the cause of American freedom in this country and throughout the world.

As a courageous soldier in our Nation's armed forces, Bob exemplified the kind of impassioned and steadfast patriotism that every true American dreams to be.

Serving 26 years as a Member of Congress, Bob Stump left us all a policy legacy of a stronger and more secure America. He also left us a rich personal legacy. Bob was a servant-leader and a man of great personal decency. He was a man who desperately loved and cherished his family. He was also a man of deep abiding faith in Jesus Christ. And now he has walked hand-in-hand with his Savior across the threshold of eternity and stepped into the light of everlasting victory.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Bob Stump's conduct indeed affected his country in a profound way. I am so very honored today to pause with Arizonans, and Americans everywhere, to pay tribute to this true American hero.

And to Bob Stump, from all of us, I would simply say, "Rest easy, gentle warrior. Thank you for passing this way and walking so kindly and so nobly among us. We shall never forget you."

POW BACK PAY BILL

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, in times of war our veterans and their families make sacrifices. The prisoners of war during WWII made great sacrifices, and were not always shown the gratitude they deserve. These American heroes, lost through the passage of time, have been denied the pay that their rank entitled them to for more than 50 years. It is time to stamp "paid in full" on this forgotten debt.

I would especially like to honor Dr. David Kliwer, a veteran from Corvallis, OR, who brought this issue to my attention. Dr. Kliwer is a remarkable man who voluntarily joined the Marines in 1939 as a Marine Corps Aviator. He was a POW in the South Pacific, and was promoted to the rank of Major while held in a Japanese POW camp. While imprisoned, he applied and was accepted to Harvard Medical School.

This bill would allow certain forgotten Navy and Marine Corps veterans who were POWs during World War II to collect back pay related to their promotions. These veterans were selected for advancement during their internment, but were unable to receive their promotion or the increase in pay that they were due. This bill corrects this oversight, and ensures that these brave soldiers, sailors, and

airmen receive the full amount of back pay they deserve, in dollars adjusted for inflation.

This bill is of considerable importance not just to the surviving veterans, but to the widows who survived their husbands as well. These women, many of whom may not be in a position to meet their needs, have earned and deserve the benefit of this legislation. We must make up this inequity and keep our promise to our Nation's veterans.

I am proud to have introduced this bill in the House of Representatives, and urge my colleagues to join me in correcting this injustice in full. To do otherwise not only devalues the service of these veterans of so long ago, but shows a callous disregard for the men and women of our Armed Forces currently in harm's way in Iraq. I hope that both houses can quickly pass this legislation, and look forward to watching President Bush sign this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL MARK ANTHONY BIBBY UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today and honor Corporal Mark Anthony Bibby of the United States Army. On July 21, 2003, Corporal Bibby was killed in the line of duty while serving the people of this great Nation in Iraq.

Mark Bibby was a soldier, who, after serving 4 years in the U.S. Army, joined the Reserves so that he could continue his devoted service to our Nation while earning his degree. His educational aspirations were put on hold as he was once again called to serve his country, ensuring that the freedoms the United States holds dear are protected.

Corporal Bibby's love for his fellow man and for the values this Nation holds dear, and his life's commitment to defending those values can best be described by three simple, but profound words: spirit, service, sacrifice.

It was Corporal Bibby's spirit that made him the man that he was—a spirit that recognized and honored values beyond the material, temporal, and physical things of this world. Corporal Bibby's unselfish and unabated service was reflected in his strong work ethic, his strong sense of patriotism, and his strong love for God, his family, and his country. With a strong spirit and unwavering service, Corporal Bibby made the ultimate sacrifice. He risked his life to ensure the safety of others. His valiant actions demonstrated that he knew that freedom is not free. His sacrifice was rich in integrity and reminds us of the gratitude we, as citizens of this great Nation, should have toward him and toward all of our servicemen and women.

We owe Corporal Bibby our sincere appreciation for his years of committed service to our Nation. His devotion to the people of the United States should serve as an example to us all.

May God bless his family, and may God bless this great Nation.